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WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,
H.L.Blackley, B.A., M.D., B.ch., B.A.O.,
for the year 1942.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the District is 5651 acres, while the number of inhabited houses was 1,500 and at the 31st of December the rateable value was £44,034 the sum represented by a penny rate being £178.

The number of births registered during the year was 113, 55 males and 58 females. The birth rate was 17.0 which compares with a rate of 15.8 for England and Wales. There were 7 male and 3 female illegitimate births and 4 male and 1 female still births. Deaths of infants under one year numbered 5, 3 males and 2 females (including 1 illegitimate female and 1 illegitimate male) giving an infant mortality rate of 44.2

The number of deaths registered was 94, 39 males and 55 females. The death rate was 14.1 which compares with 11.6 for England and Wales.

Included in the following table are the main causes of deaths:-

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	1	2
Cancer	5	11	16
Cerebral haemorrhage	7	4	11
Heart disease	7	18	25
Other circulatory diseases	0	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3	5
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Congenital debility, premature births etc.	1	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	6	5	11
By violence	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	1	2	3
Other causes	4	8	12
Total	39	55	94

Prevalence of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases

There was no serious epidemic during the year, the following infectious diseases being notified:-

Scarlet Fever	16
Whooping Cough	14
Measles	20
Pneumonia	6
Erysipelas	1

Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 ---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 ---	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
15 ---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 ---	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 ---	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 ---	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 ---	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 ---	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	4	-	1	1	-	-

Water Supply

The treatment of the existing supply by the addition of lime to correct a tendendy to acidity was commenced early in the year, and the Consultants have kept the results under close observation. No progress with auxiliary works has yet proved possible but the Council is hoping to commence a boring shortly.

Drainage and Sewerage

The Consulting Engineer has not yet submitted a scheme for dealing with the sewerage and sewage disposal of the town, but it is hoped to receive his report in the near future. Meantime it has been found possible to carry out certain work in anticipation of a complete reconstruction.

Nursing Arrangements and Hospitals

The Nursing Association employs two nurses, who give a portion of their time to school work under the County Council. There are also one or two maternity nurses working independently.

Hospital Accommodation. The Warminster Hospital, which has accommodation for thirty patients, supplies adequately the medical and surgical needs of the District.

The Joint Isolation Hospital. This Hospital has sufficient accomodation for cases of notifiable diseases under normal conditions. The Hospital is managed by the Trowbridge and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board. Arrangements have been made to take infectious cases from other Districts sent in by the County Medical Officer of Health, when accommodation is available.

Ambulance Facilities. (a) For infectious cases an Ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital, and is always available.
(b) For non-infectious cases. an Ambulance is provided by the Urban District Council, and is available for local cases at any hour, day or night, by application to the Police, any of the Doctors, or the Clerk of the Council. In addition a B.R.C.S. Ambulance can be called upon locally,

Housing.

The scheme for the erection of 70 new houses approved by the Ministry in 1938 has proceeded slowly, 18 houses coming into occupation during 1942 and 6 bungalows alone remaining to be completed at the end of the year. Thus a certain amount of overcrowding could be remedied, and families in condemned dwellings re-housed. A few of the premises thus vacated were able to be reconditioned for temporary occupation by refugees.

Civil Defence

The Council has given considerable time to the operation of the Civil Defence services, not only those which were delegated by the County Council but also those for which the District Council is directly responsible, such as emergency mortuary accommodation, dedontamination of food etc. Intensive training took place during the year and all Casualty Services for which I am responsible are in a satisfactory state of efficiency.

Attached to this report is your Sanitary Inspector's report on the sanitary conditions of the District, work carried out in connection with housing, and on the inspection and supervision of food.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H.L.BLACKLEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year Ending 31st December 1942.

Gentlemen,

In common with other years since the outbreak of war only a brief report is presented with the usual tabular statements of inspections and work carried out in the year 1942.

Again considerable time has been spent doing civil defence and other emergency duties although I am pleased to report that a large amount of routine work has been dealt with and attention given to each branch of public health work.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Routine bacteriological and chemical analyses were carries out by the Pathological Department at Salisbury Infirmary and proved satisfactory with regard to the Council's supply, although the treatment of the water with lime, which was commenced during April, is causing certain difficulties which it is hoped soon to overcome.

There was no material change in the supply or distribution of water in the district, most of the premises obtaining water from this Council's undertaking.

Sewage and Drainage

Similarly to the water supply no material changes took place except an extension of one main sewer which will form part of the new scheme that the consulting engineers are preparing.

A small amount of drainage work was carried out chiefly in cases where additional sanitary accommodation was provided.

Closet Accommodation

7 additional water closets and one additional chemical closets were provided during the year while three earth closets were repaired.

Camping Sites

There are three caravans stationed in the district for which licences have been granted.. These have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No cases of infestation was reported during the year.

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Sanitary Inspection of the District

Table No. 1 - Complaints Received

Number of complaints received during 1942..... 77
Number of complaints outstanding at end of 1941.... 67
Number of complaints abated during 1942.....108
Number of complaints outstanding at end of 1942.... 36

Table No. 2 - Routine Inspections, Tests etc.

Type of Premises	Type of Inspections	Number of Visits or Inspections
Dwelling houses etc.	Inspected & details recorded	58
	Reinspection after service of notice	102
	Work in Progress	40
	Requisitioned) Reinspections	246
	premises) Work in progress	166
	Overcrowding	1
	Tents, vans, sheds	6
Other premises following complaint	General inspections	19
	Reinspection after service of notice	55
	Work in progress	69
Factories	With mechanical power	23
	Without mechanical power	6
Shops	Routine inspections	30
Offensive Trades etc.	Fat melting	11
	Knackers Yard	11
Schools	Routine inspections	4
Milk premises	Cowsheds	37
	Dairies	45
	Samples for T.B. exam.	13
	Samples for Bact. exam.	13
Food premises	Meat Shops & Food stores	170
	Manufacture of preserved food	20
	Fried fish shops	2
	Bakehouses	6
	Market	18
	Slaughterhouses	140
Infectious Disease	Routine enquiries	9
	Rooms disinfected	14
Premises licenced for public entertainment	Routine inspections	4
	Total carried forward	1338

Type of Premises	Type of Inspections	Number of Visits or Inspections
	Total brought forward	1338
Infested premises	Rodents	13
	Other pests	4
Drainage	New drains and fittings	28
	Existing drains and fittings	30
	Water tests	18
	Sewage farm and works	4
	Minor sewage disposal plants	3
Water supply	Public supply	19
	Private supply	-
	No. Bact. exams. - Council	52
	No. Chem. exams. - Council	2
General	Public conveniences	7
	Conveniences of licenced premises	4
	Miscellaneous	4
	Repair of War damaged stocks	12
Civil Defence	Routine visits or inspections	443
	Gas contaminated food scheme	72
	Total no. inspections etc.	2053

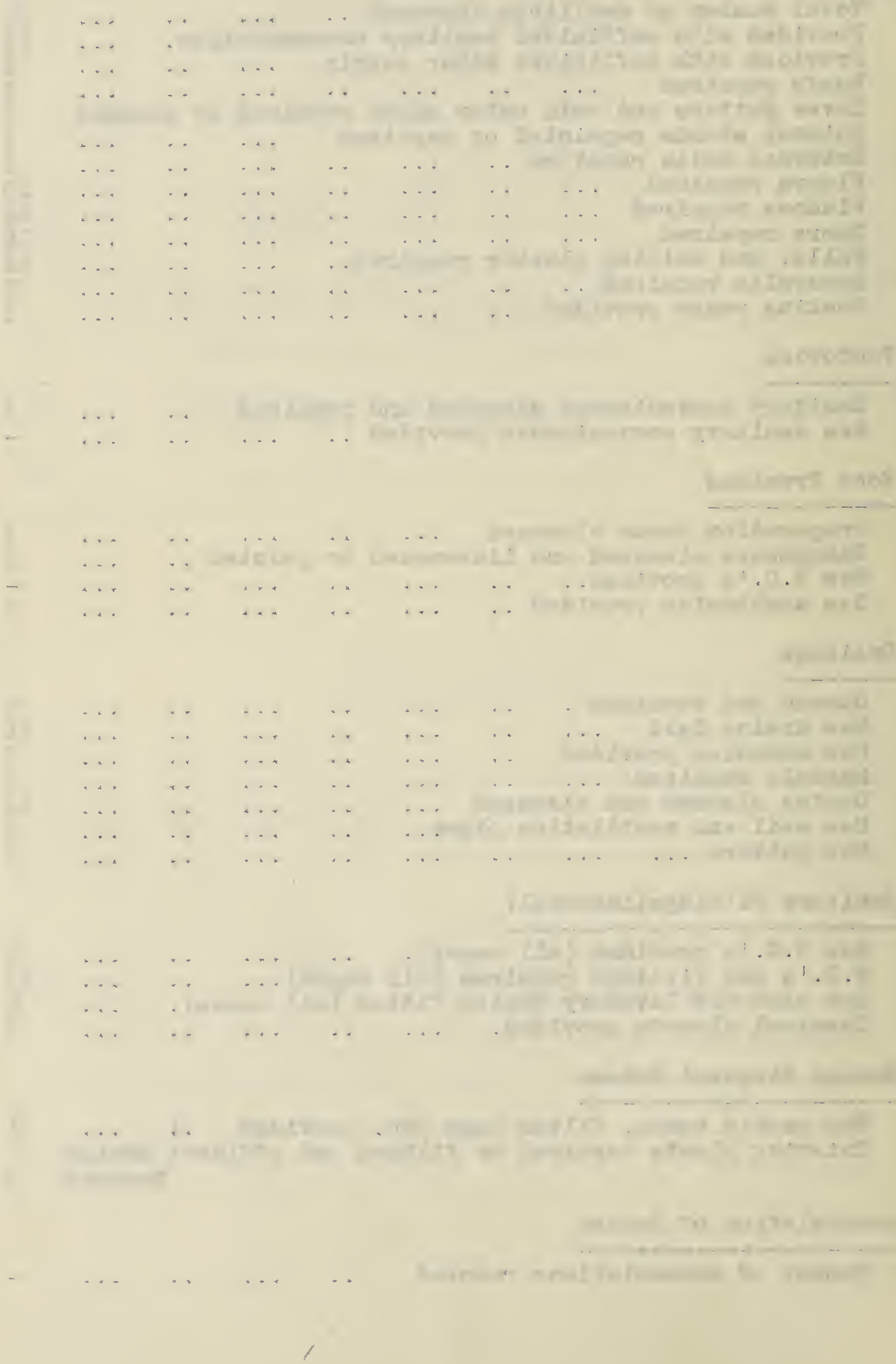
Table No. 3-Notices

	Informal	Statutory
Outstanding at end of 1941	10	2
Total served during 1942	42	13
Totalcomplied with during 1942	35	14
Outstanding at end of 1942	17	1

Sanitary Improvements

Table No. 4 - Defects Remedied or other Improvements after Service of Notices.

Housing	
Total number of dwellings improved	25
Provided with sufficient sanitary accommodation. ...	13
Provided with sufficient water supply	6
Roofs repaired	4
Eaves gutters and rain water pipes repaired or renewed	8
Chimney stacks repointed or repaired	4
External walls repaired	8
Floors repaired	10
Windows repaired	14
Doors repaired	16
Walls, and ceiling plaster repaired..	14
Handrails repaired	5
Cooking range provided	1
Factories	
Sanitary conveniences cleansed and repaired	3
New sanitary conveniences provided	-
Food Premises	
Preparation rooms cleansed	6
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed or painted	2
New W.C.'s provided..	-
New washbasins provided	1
Drainage	
Opened and examined	5
New drains laid	11
New manholes provided	7
Manhole repaired	2
Drains cleared and cleansed	14
New soil and ventilation pipes..	2
New gutters	3
Sanitary Fittings(internal)	
New W.C.'s provided (all cases).	8
W.C.'s and fittings repaired (all cases)...	13
New sink and lavatory basins fitted (all cases). ...	9
Chemical closets provided.	3
Sewage Disposal Scheme	
New septic tanks, filter beds etc. provided	1
Existing plants repaired or filters and effluent drains renewed	3
Accumulation of Refuse	
Number of accumulations removed	-



Housing Statistics

General

No new work was undertaken during the year under the Housing Acts, and only urgent repairs were dealt with under the Public Health Act. Outstanding major repairs to six houses were however completed during the year, the tenants having been rehoused by the Council

Overcrowding

20 cases rehoused themselved during the year while 4 cases were rehoused by the Council.

Emergency Accommodation

The 33 houses that were requisitioned for the accommodation of evacuated families have been maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

The following tables show the total number of persons trading in the Milk Industry at the end of the year and whose names are on the Council's registers. New and cancelled registrations are also shown.

Table No. 5

	Number of Retailers	Number of Wholesalers and Producers	Number of Registered Premises
Application for Registration	-	-	-
New Registrations made	-	-	-
Cancelled Registrations	2	-	2
Totals on Register 31/12/42	22	28	28

Table No. 6.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk producers in this district	-
Number of "Accredited" milk producers in this district	3
Number of applications for a licence to Pasteurise milk	1
Number of licences granted to Pasteurise milk	-

There was no material change in the production and distribution of milk during 1942. One application to Pasteurise milk was received but was subsequently withdrawn owing to the firm being unable to obtain the necessary apparatus.

The Council agreed to my visiting farms on behalf of the Wilts. War Agricultural Executive Commitee under the National Milk Testing Scheme and these visits together with those to designated farms were made. Samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination while samples were taken for Tubercular Examination on behalf of the Wilts. County Council.

Meat Inspection

Regular slaughtering ceased in August when the local bacon factory was closed down.

The following tables set out the various foods that have been condemned during the year together with the inspection of carcases at the bacon factory.

Food Premises

Routine visits have been made to food shops, premises where food is prepared, manufactured, stored or cooled, and all were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition, and improvements that were asked for being readily complied with.

Table No. 7 - Foodstuffs Condemned as Unfit for Human Food

Commodity	No.	Weight		
		cwts.	qrts.	lbs.
Beef carcases	2	6	2	2
Bovine liver	1			14
Sheep's liver	1			4
Sheep's carcase	1		1	14
Bovine head	1			20
Meat		3	1	1
Beef				7
Total		10	2	6

Carcases Inspected and Condemned at the Bacon Factory.

Number killed	3,325
Number inspected	3,325
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>	
Whole carcases condemned	4
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	222
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	6·8
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>	
Whole carcases condemned	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	276
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8·5

Total weight of meat condemned for 1942

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Whole carcases condemned		5	1	17
Carcases partly condemned		1	2	8
Organs condemned	1	1	1	4
Total	1	8	1	1

Other Foodstuffs Condemned

Commodity		Nos.	Weight		
			cwts.	qrts.	lbs.
Jam	(tinned)	1			2
Meat	"	45		3	17
Fruit	"	22			45
Vegetables	"	27			27
Milk	"	64		2	-
Fish	"	23			12
Misc:	"	1			1
Cheese				1	8
Rolled Oats				1	6
Beefex Cubes (boxes)		10			
Sausage Rolls		84			5
Cakes		11		2	11
Meat Pies		10			4
Wheat Flakes		1 pkt.			1
Butter					1½
Total			3	2	-½

Factories

2 informal notices were served on occupiers of factories using mechanical power and in both cases the necessary work to sanitary conveniences was carried out.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.C.F.Gisborne.

Sanitary Inspector.

14th April 1943.